

The Story of an Ex-smoker. Reader's Digest
April 1966, p. 68 ff.

Article of tendentious propaganda including following statements: My case more convincing than any statistics. My experience will convince others that time to quit smoking is now!

The story: 66 year old man who smoked for over 40 years, lately about 4 pkgs. cigarettes a day. He was the cancer chemistry expert on the Committee of Dr. Terry, Surgeon General. By the time of the Committee deliberations "I clearly was high in liability to death from lung cancer, emphysema and heart disease.

Did not stop smoking because felt too well, can swim length of Harvard pool down and back under water, must have pretty good lungs."

August 12, 1965 small lesion in left lung found. Two weeks wait for operation because heart was in poor shape, lungs in miserable condition from severe emphysema and bronchitis. After two week abstinence from smoking, marked improvement in heart and lungs.

Tumor required removal of only small portion of a lobe. Some time after operation medical examination - signs of heart trouble and emphysema had practically vanished.

"I am positive that smoking had brought on bronchitis because this condition was promptly reversed after I ceased smoking. There can be little doubt that the lung cancer in my case was likewise brought on by smoking."

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"Suffering from emphysema, bronchitis and worsened heart, I was very probably headed for death. But removal of the cause of these conditions - cigarette smoking in my case - stopped the degenerative processes and allowed nature, an extraordinarily powerful ally when given a chance, to start repairing the damages."

Dr. Louis Fiefer, a distinguished scientist, tells how narrowly he escaped death from lung cancer.

The facts. A small lesion in left lung discovered by x-ray. The operation required removal of only a small part of a lobe.

A small lesion in the periphery of the lung, least likely to be bronchogenic cancer, removal of only a small part of the lung points to finding of nonmalignant lesion on operation.

Tissue diagnosis at operation not mentioned.

After over 40 years of smoking bronchitis and emphysema still so mild as to vanish after a few weeks of cessation of smoking. Obviously condition was only moderate hypersecretion causing hawking, expectoration and slightly increased resistance to breathing. Considering that he lately smoked as much as 40 cigarettes in a day, it is proof against smoking as a cause of emphysema and/or chronic bronchitis.

What "heart trouble" vanishes a few weeks after cessation of smoking? Mild anhythmia ??

This man was a chemist working for many years on carcinogenic hydrocarbons. He most likely has inhaled some fumes of these complexes. This is obviously a very poor example to quote as proof for cigarette smoke origin of lung cancer.

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